Attorney's Docket No.: 007025.P001   Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:)
)
    Grant James Ryan, et al.   )   Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
)
Application No.: 10/812,789   )   Art Unit: 2141
)
Filed: March 29, 2004   )
)
For: PERSONAL CONTACT   )
      NETWORK   )
)
_____   )

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL OF PRIORITY PAPERS

Dear Sir:

In support of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119, Applicant encloses

herewith a certified copy of each priority foreign application listed below:

Serial No.	Date of Application	Country
514368	09/30/2001	New Zealand
518624	04/29/2002	New Zealand

First-Class Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231 on

June 25, 2004
_____
Date of Deposit

Linda K. Brost
_____
Name of Person Mailing Correspondence

_____   _____
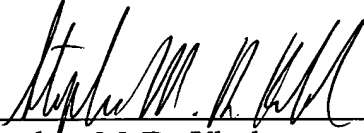Signature   Date

-1-

If there are any additional charges, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: __June 25, 2004__

Stephen M. De Klerk
Reg. No. 46,503

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8300

CERTIFICATE

This certificate is issued in support of an application for Patent registration in a country outside New Zealand pursuant to the Patents Act 1953 and the Regulations thereunder.

I hereby certify that annexed is a true copy of the Provisional Specification as filed on 21 September 2001 with an application for Letters Patent number 514368 made by Grant Ryan.

I further certify that the Provisional Specification has since been postdated to 30 September 2001 under Section 12(3) of the Patents Act 1953.

I further certify that pursuant to a claim under Section 24(1) of the Patents Act 1953, a direction was given that the application proceed in the name of RealContacts Limited.

Dated 6 April 2004.

Neville Harris
Commissioner of Patents, Trade Marks and Designs

514368

SUBSTITUTION OF APPLICANT
UNDER SECTION 24

PATENTS FORM NO. 4

Appln Fee: $50.00

James & Wells ref: 41640/32

PATENTS ACT 1953

PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

INTERPERSONAL CONNECTION SERVICE

I,   Grant Ryan, a New Zealand citizen of 2 Rhodesvale Terrace, Christchurch, New Zealand

do hereby declare this invention to be described in the following statement:

INTERPERSONAL CONNECTION SERVICE

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to a system and method for facilitating introduction of individuals to each, and in particular, people with mutual

5   acquaintances.

BACKGROUND ART

The desire to establish fulfilling relationships with other humans, whether romantic or otherwise is one of the strongest human drives and can be the cause of a great deal of anxiety, stress and uncertainty. The very process of establishing relationships with

10   other humans is often fraught with difficulties, compounded by the inherent characteristics of most humans to avoid risk and/or potential rejection.

Many relationships and marriages have traditionally been arranged by families and/or stem from relationships established during school, work, or other situations where humans experience a common bond. Traditional demographics and cultural

15   characteristics which hither to have provided structures and opportunities for like minded individuals to meet are increasingly being replaced or are considered undesirable/unacceptable to a large portion of society.

The increasing urbanisation of populations has resulted with people having lifestyles and schedules which preclude them from establishing successful relationships.

20   Consequently, many people have turned to less traditional means of finding potential mates and a variety of dating services have been provided to meet such needs.

However, many of the factors which inhibit or pose difficulties for individuals to establish relationships with strangers are equally applicable to many such dating services. Even when two people are both desirous of initiating the first steps in a

relationship, shyness, fear of rejection, other social pressures or constraints often prevent the parties from establishing contact.

To overcome such difficulties, systems exist whereby people view video tapes/pictures of prospective partners and/or assess common areas of interest such as hobbies, employment and so forth to determine their interest in the potential partner.

The introduction of both parties is only effected if both parties are willing to do so.

Unfortunately, for many people, the visual appearance and/or the stated personal interests are often not sufficient in themselves to overcome the feeling of unease or trepidation of a user from meeting such a potential stranger on a 'blind date'. The initial step itself actually approaching a dating service can prove too embarrassing for many people thus precluding them from being assessed by potentially suitable partners who do make use of the dating service.

Alternative means of matching potential partners include the use of personal advertisements placed in magazines, newspapers and so forth. In recent times, this has been extended to include use of the internet as a means of increasing the potential pool of suitable partners. In such advertisements, people provide a brief description of their own personality traits and interests and express their preference of such traits in potential respondents. However, such descriptions are often misleading or even untruthful and due to the lack of any independent means of verification available to the enquirer, such advertisements are often treated with a great deal of scepticism by potential users.

Various attempts have been made to enhance such dating services by computerising the recordal and organisation of various human characteristics, seeking to provide enquirers with candidates matching their desired lists of characteristics. None of the systems however overcome the fundamental reluctance of most people to initiate a relationship with a completely unknown individual.

James & Wells Ref: 41640/32

People often become acquainted with their partner due to their environment, i.e. school, college work and so forth and/or due to contact through mutual friends. By far the most common factor in leading to the majority of human relationships is the existence of such a common bond, link or situation/circumstance, either directly or indirectly with the eventual partner.

The very act of establishing friendship with a particular person confers at least a partial affirmation of the person's character, judgement and personality without which the friendship would not have been established in the first place. By proxy therefore, it is widely felt that he friends of a friend are also likely to meet the same criteria or standards which formed the basis for the established friendship. The common factor of having a mutual friend provides both potential partners with a degree of reassurance of potential compatibility and like-mindedness which is not discernible through known dating services.

Despite the advantages of seeking potential relationships with friends and friends of friends, it is generally impossible for people to attend all the social functions required to meet all the potentially suitable partners in such an extended network of friends. Furthermore, whilst many friends might be willing or keen to help match potentially suitable partners, they may not want to become duly involved themselves

It is an object of the present invention to address the foregoing problems or at least to provide the public with a useful choice.

Further aspects and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the ensuing description which is given by way of example only.

DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

According to one aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of facilitating the introduction of individuals who share a common link with each other

including the steps performed by a processor of a data processing and storage system, of:

- receiving input from a first individual including at least one identifying characteristic of said first individual and of one or more chosen individuals known to said first individual each having at least one predetermined factor in common with the first individual;

- recording said identifying characteristic of each individual to form one or more corresponding individual user ID records;

- notifying the or each chosen individual of their recordal on said system and requesting input of at least one identifying characteristic of one or more further individuals known to the or each said chosen individual each also having at least one said predetermined factors in common with all said individuals;

- recording the identifying characteristic of each further individual inputted by the or each said chosen individual to form further corresponding individual ID records;

- repeating the above steps of successive notification of further individuals and recordal of the identifying characteristic of each further individual chosen as further individual ID records;

- providing searchable access to prescribed individuals to at least part of a database formed from said individual ID records.

Preferably, said common factors include friends; relations; business colleagues; professional acquaintances; sexual preferences, persuasions, or proclivities; sporting or leisure interests; religious, political, theological or ideological beliefs; academic, scientific, or engineering disciplines; humanitarian, social or economic fields and any combination of same.

James & Wells Ref: 41640/32

Preferably said identifying characteristics includes the individuals name and preferably a means of contacting the individual, preferably including an e-mail address; telephone and/or facsimile number; postal address and any combination of same.

5 Preferably said identifying characteristics also includes at least one of said predetermined common factors.

Optionally, said identifying characteristics may include supplementary personal attributes of said user or chosen individual about themselves, preferably including marital or relationship status (e.g. single, married divorced, separated, de facto, single

10 but uninterested in a relationship at present, and so forth); physical attributes; photographs; and or a rating, assessment, quantification, qualification, or comment on the or each said common factor of one or more chosen individuals as perceived by the user.

Optionally said chosen users may prohibit the recordal of any or all details stored or

15 potentially stored in their respective individual user ID record from being searchable and/or stored on said database.

Thus, using friendship as an example of a common factor between individuals, a first user inputs the details of all their friends they believe would be willing to be recorded on the database as chosen individuals, and specifies their e-mail address as their

20 identifying characteristic and 'friend' as the common factor between the parties.

Each chosen individual is then notified of their inclusion (or potential inclusion) in the database and optionally notified of the or each common factor liking them to the first user if this is not self evident, e.g. *"you have received an invitation from your friend David to be recorded on a friendship database and he invites you to input*

25 *details (i.e. e-mail address) of your friends to the data base...".*

James & Wells Ref: 41640/32

The process is then repeated as each friend of the original user agreeing to participate provides the requested identifying characteristic information and their chosen friends are automatically contacted (via e-mail) in the same manner and invited to participate.

5   According to one aspect of the present invention, said searchable access may be effected according to defined criteria including any said identifying characteristic, common predetermined factors or combination of same

According to one aspect of the present invention, the said prescribed users provided with searchable access of the database are determined by a defined eligibility criteria.

10   Preferably, said eligibility criteria includes being a paying subscriber to said system.

In alternative embodiments, the said eligibility criteria definition may be based on any of the above described common factors, identifying characteristic - including said, supplementary attributes or combination of same.

Subscription to the system may constitute a one-off payment, an on-going time-based
15   payment, or be based on the quantity or nature of database search results.

Thus, in one embodiment, only single individuals (subject to payment of an appropriate fee) would be given optional access to search the database for other eligible individuals within their extended network of friends stored on the database.

Thus, for examples, only individuals recorded as being single male would be eligible
20   to search individual ID records of single females, but not single males according to one set of eligibility rules, irrespective of whether they were already paying a subscription.

According to one aspect of the present invention, individual users may chose to optionally restrict access to part or all of their stored data in their individual ID record

to other users with particular identifying characteristics, supplementary attributes and/or common factors.

In this manner, couples in existing relationships who do not want to be contacted by individuals seeking romantic relationships – for example, but who do want to help
5   their potentially complementary friends to meet may simply add the details (i.e. identifying characteristics) of their friends to the system without themselves being locatable in a search by such users.

The couple themselves would not be eligible to conduct their own search for single individuals as they would not fulfil the eligibility criteria (in this example) of being
10   single.

Potential users of such a system will be reassured that they will be included in an essentially private network whereby only others with a common link (e.g. friends, friends of friends, or friends of friends of friends and so forth) will be able to access their personal details if they chose to make them available.

15   Furthermore, the system does not necessarily require the user to make contact with a prospective date via the system itself.   Instead, the system provides a means of informing the user of the existence of the potentially eligible individual together with the knowledge of a common link, e.g. a shared mutual acquaintance.

Preferably, the system allows said user input and searchable access across a network,
20   preferably the internet.

Alternatively, said network includes an intranet; wide and local area networks; a telephone or pager networks, telephone-based text-messaging or facsimiles; automated mailserver systems; power transmission networks, wireless networks; networks comprised of other telecommunication links: postal or courier services and
25   the like.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a computer implemented system for facilitating the introduction of individuals to each other who share a common link, said system including;

— a host computer processor connectable to a network,

5 — a database accessible over said network,

— a plurality of data input devices connectable to said network,

— wherein said system is capable of receiving input from a first individual including at least one identifying characteristic of said first individual and of one or more chosen individuals known to said first individual each having at least one

10 predetermined factor in common with the first individual;

— recording said identifying characteristic of each individual to form one or more corresponding individual user ID records;

— notifying the or each chosen individual of their recordal on said system and requesting input of at least one identifying characteristic of one or more further

15 individuals known to the or each said chosen individual each also having at least one said predetermined factors in common with all said individuals;

— recording the identifying characteristic of each further individual inputted by the or each said chosen individual to form further corresponding individual ID records;

20 — repeating the above steps of successive notification of further individuals and recordal of the identifying characteristic of each further individual chosen as further individual ID records;

— providing searchable access to registered individuals to at least part of a database formed from said individual ID records.

Preferably, said data input devices are computer terminals connected to said network, preferably the internet. Said computer terminals may be provide e-mail access and/or web-browsing access to said host computer via a dedicated web-site interface.

According to one embodiment, individuals stored on said database may be periodically provided with indicative information relating to additional new individuals with a common factor matching that recorded in the individual user ID record, which have been inputted to the system since the individual's last system access and/or said automated periodic update.

Said indicative information may provide a simple numerical indication of new recorded individuals, or alternatively may include at least part of the details contained in the respective individual user ID records of the new users.

According to a further embodiment, a referral chain formed by the sequence of preceding chosen individuals sharing a common predetermined factor leading to the eventual choice of a particular individual for inclusion in the database may be recorded in the individual user ID record.

According to a still further embodiment, anonymous references regarding a particular individual may be requested of one or more individuals identified within the corresponding referral chain relating to said particular individual.

As potential users may be reluctant to disclose some or all of the various personal attributes referred to above, another means of indirectly assessing the potential suitability of an individual for a relationship of some kind may be garnered by considering the prospective individual's response or opinion to various neutral or non-threatening issues, such as the user's favourite joke, quote, movie and the like.

Thus, in a further aspect of the present invention, an individual is prompted for a response to predetermined questions relating to non-sensitive, matters of opinion on

neutral topics, said responses being stored as part of the individual user ID record and being searchable by said selected users.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Further aspects of the present invention will become apparent from the following

5   description which is given by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1   shows a schematic block diagram of a preferred embodiment of the present invention ;

Figure 2   shows a flow chart implementation of the embodiment shown in figure

10   1:

Figure 3   shows a web page forming part of the preferred embodiment shown in figure 1, and

Figure 4   shows an e-mail forming part of the preferred embodiment shown in figure 1.

15 ## BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

Figure 1 shows a schematic block diagram of a service for providing connections between individuals, implemented on a computer system (1) according to a first embodiment of the present invention.

20 The computer system (1) includes a host computer in the form of an internet web server (2), containing a processor (3) connectable to a network, in particular the internet (4), a database (5) accessible over said network and a plurality of data input devices, represented by user computers (6,7).

It will be appreciated that by those skilled in the art that the invention is not necessarily limited to use with the internet (4) and that a connection to the host computer/web server (2) may be provided by a propriety network (8) enabling access by via text-messaging telephones (9) for example.

5   The present invention is particularly suited to implementation as a relationship service to facilitate the introduction of individuals having a common bond or factor with each other. In particular, the present invention is sited to for use as a dating-type service or systems, whereby friends or friends of friends is the said common factor between the individuals.

10   Existing dating services are hampered by the instinctive reluctance of many users, or potential user's to engage in relationships with individuals of whom they have no prior knowledge. Attempts to overcome this difficulty have been predominately based on systems which record various personal details of the users to provide a basis for filtering potential partners based on the perceived suitability of the recorded

15   personal details.

However, most people's friendships (both platonic and non-platonic) are formed with other individuals with whom they respect, feel comfortable with, whose company they enjoy, with a compatible outlook, sense of humour/beliefs and/or a host of other traits. A friend's friends are thus, widely perceived to be people with a similar

20   outlook/character to the friend in question. Therefore, even if a friend's friend is unknown to an individual, the existence of the mutual friend between the parties mitigates much of the above-mentioned concerns.

It will be appreciated that the same principals of using an extended network of acquaintances as a means of locating a particular individual can be extended to a

25   plurality of non-romance related areas. As an example, people seeking a particular type of tradesman such as an electrician, confronted by a potentially random choice

from listings in a phone book would often be very willing to chose an electrician recommended by a friend. The principle is equally applicable across a huge range of human activities/endeavours and is a fundamental feature of many societies.

However, the use of the system (1) for romantic purposes will be used to illustrate the
5 operation and characteristics of the present inventions.

Figure 2 show a flow diagram symbolising the implementation of the present invention of the system (1) as shown in figure 1, wherein an individual having an extended network of friends wishes to identify potential relationships from within said extended network.

10 To initiate the process, the individual accesses the host computer/web server (2) via the internet (4) using a user computer (6) and is connected to a web site (10) interface with the service.

In the initial step 100 the individual enters his/her identifying characteristics (11) which preferably includes a means of contacting the individual, preferably via e-mail
15 and their name. This is recorded by the systems (1) as part of an individual ID record (12) unique to each person and stored or updated on the database (5) in step 101.

As discussed above, in the present embodiment, the system (1) is primarily directed towards a single application, i.e., to facilitate romantic relationships between individuals, and the website (10) and associated correspondence/communication
20 between the users will reflect this single purpose. It is therefore not necessary for the user to specifically record the reason/object for using the service, nor the predetermined common factor (13) or link between the individuals stored in their respective ID records (12).

However, in alternative embodiments, the system (1), may be configured to
25 categorise individuals by predetermined common factors other than just friendship.

These factors may encompass the full gamut of human interactions with each other and may include family relations; business colleagues; professional acquaintances; sexual preferences, persuasions, or proclivities; sporting or leisure interests; religious, political, theological or ideological beliefs; academic, scientific, or

5   engineering disciplines; humanitarian, social or economic fields and any combination of same.

Such predetermined common factors may be recorded in step 101 as part of the individuals ID records (12) on the database (5). However, again for the sake of clarity, the present embodiment is described with a common factor (13) between the

10   individuals of friendship.

After entering the user's identifying characteristic (11), the user selects one or more chosen individuals from their network of friends in step 102. Each said chosen friend is then notified by an e-mail as shown in the exemplary email illustration represented in Figure 3. The e-mail notification (14) effected in step 103, conveys to the

15   recipient a brief outline of the service (15) together with a request (16) for their participation (step 104).

No individual ID records (12) are recorded/stored for recipients choosing not to participate (step 105) or simply wishing to help their friends without their own details being accessible to others. Individuals willing to participate are invited (17) to enter

20   details of their own friends in a repetition of step 102. The details of the chosen friends entered, i.e., the identifying characteristic (11) in this embodiment are the friend's e-mail address and name. The individuals chosen for contact are notified by e-mail in a repetition of step 103.

The whole process (as described above in steps 102-105) of notifying friends,

25   recording the details of willing participants as individual user ID records, and

contacting the chosen friend's friends and so forth is successively repeated in this manner until the full extended network of friends has been contacted.

Within a typical extended network of friends, there may be single individuals seeking relationships, single individuals not actively seeking a relationship, couples,

5 separated couples, and so forth. Prescribed individuals meeting certain eligibility criteria are invited to register to obtain searchable access of the database (5).

In the present embodiment (and as shown in Figure 2), the said eligibility criteria for registration is whether that the individual is single (step 106).

Individuals meeting this criteria, i.e., they are single (automatically detected by said

10 processor (3) reading said ID records (12) in the database (5)) are sent an e-mail notification (18) (as shown in figure 4) in step 107 to invite them to register for searchable access of the database (5). If user is recorded as not being single in the individual's ID record (12), no invitation for registration is sent – step 108.

In the example represented in figure 4, the e-mail (18) includes the option (19) of

15 restricting the information in their own individual ID record to be available to just 'friends of friends' or 'friends of friends of friends'. It also permits the user to register the type of relationship they are interested in via a selection menu (20).

It will be apparent to one skilled in the art that many variants of the described embodiment are possible without departing from the scope of the invention.

20 In alternative embodiment (not shown), any of the users may input a variety of supplementary personal attributes/information as part of the identifying characteristics (11) including their including marital or relationship status (e.g. single, married divorced, separated, de facto, single but uninterested in a relationship at present, and so forth); physical attributes; photographs.

Furthermore, close friends (as opposed to friends of friends) may be offered a means of recording a rating, assessment, quantification, qualification, or comment regarding the details stored in the relevant individual ID record (12). This can provide a means of limiting any excessive boasting/hyperbole or reticence/down-playing by an individual and thus provide a more accurate description.

It should understood that the system (1) does not specifically require the users to contact each other via the internet, rather, it provides the information required (e.g. a common friend) to contact an individual with whom the inquirer is known to share a common link.

Even though many users may find e-mail to be a convenient means of contact, there is nothing precluding the use of the telephone, letter writing, personal contact or any of the 'conventional' means already available to the public. Such contact details may simply be recorded as part of the ID (12) records and made searchable to prescribed users.

The invention possesses several security features not shared by existing 'dating-services'. Firstly, only individuals sharing a common link (e.g. friendship) are able to obtain access to another individual's personal details, i.e. their ID record (12). No information is disclosed to the 'outside world'. This greatly reduces the concern and likelihood of approaches from 'crank individuals', whether perceived or actual.

Secondly, the system does not rely on the users inputting large amounts of personal and potentially private information into a database over which they have no access control. Many users may feel less threatened by recording the minimal information needed on the database (5), particularly with the reassurance that the information is only viewable by friends or friends of friends (or friends of friends of friends).

Further features or embellishments to the basic system include cross checking the details of new individuals proposed for inclusion on the database to see if they are

already present. This prevents people receiving unwanted duplicate e-mail requests (14) to join the service.

Eligible individuals, i.e. single friends meeting a particular search criteria may be listed with the along with the path of referring friends to provides a sense of context and background information. User can be provided with the option of whether they want their referring friends to be 'attached' to them in this manner.

Registered users may be notified periodically about the number of new eligible individuals included in the service since they last used the service and/or we last notified.

Users may customise the format of the e-mail notifications (14) to suit their own tastes. As will be seen in the outline of the service (15) shown in figure 3, there are two drop-down boxes to enable the user to customise the characterising description of the service and the salutation with the minimum of effort.

If a user dislikes a particular individual within an extended network of friends, they may deny to access of their individual ID details during any search of the database (5) conducted by said particular individual (or not accept a link to them in the database (5) at all).

Instead of accessing the service via the internet (4), any proprietary network could be employed such as an intranet, wide and local area networks; a telephone or pager networks, telephone-based text-messaging or facsimiles; automated mailserver systems; power transmission networks, wireless networks; networks comprised of other telecommunication links: postal or courier services and the like.

The now widespread text-based phone-messaging feature of telephones, particularly mobile telephones (9) can be utilised as a convenient and attractive means of accessing the service through a proprietary network (8).

Instead of each user instantaneously sending their e-mail requests (14) to the friends chosen for possible inclusion in the service individuals in 'real-time', these may be grouped together so that an individual receives a single notification indicating all the friends who have recommended them.

5   A further variant of this feature is to periodically notify a user of all the other individuals who have registered and who want to refer to the user as their friend.

A 'referral chain' of individuals connecting two people provides a means for both parties to inquire about each other through any of the parties in the referral chain. This provides a means of obtaining further information about an individual before
10   committing to a date/meeting. This essentially mimics the age-old social mechanism whereby friends are used as intermediates or envoys to discover details of potential mates/partners.

A means of extracting information from an individual's on which character assessments may be made is possible by means of obtaining response from said
15   individual to a range of questions on neutral, mainstream, non-threatening or non-sensitive issues. Such questions could relate to the user's favourite joke, quote, movie and the like. Said responses may be stored as part of the individual user ID record and may be searchable by said selected users. This avoids the understandable reluctance of many potential users to divulge personal, private and/or physical details
20   to the scrutiny of third parties

Allowing the entry of an expanded list of identifying characteristics/common factors (11,13) as referred to above can enable the service users to contact other people having a common link for non-romantic purposes. This may range from golfers seeking like-minded playing partners to lawyers seeking reliable associates in
25   overseas jurisdictions.

The recommendation of a friend or colleague or even indirectly by someone (even if not a direct acquaintance) who's judgement is respected can greatly influence peoples action and choices. The choice of say, a builder, dentist or mechanic for example may be influence by acquired personal experiences or by reputation, and/or

5   recommendation. The latter option is often given preference due to the greater potential impartiality and its ability to draw on a wider pool of personal experiences.

The present invention is readily adaptable to such relationships, and in fact, may be utilised in facilitating interaction between parties in almost any sphere of human activity, provided the parties share a common bond or link which is respected by the

10   said parties.

Aspects of the present invention have been described by way of example only and it should be appreciated that modifications and additions may be made thereto without departing from the scope thereof.

GRANT RYAN

by his Attorneys

JAMES & WELLS

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

Enter personal ID details — 100

User chooses friends to contact — 102

Notifies chosen friends by e-mail — 103

104 — Do friends want to participate

No → No ID details stored — 105

Yes

Store ID details on database — 101

106 — Is individual single?

No → No registration possible for database searching — 108

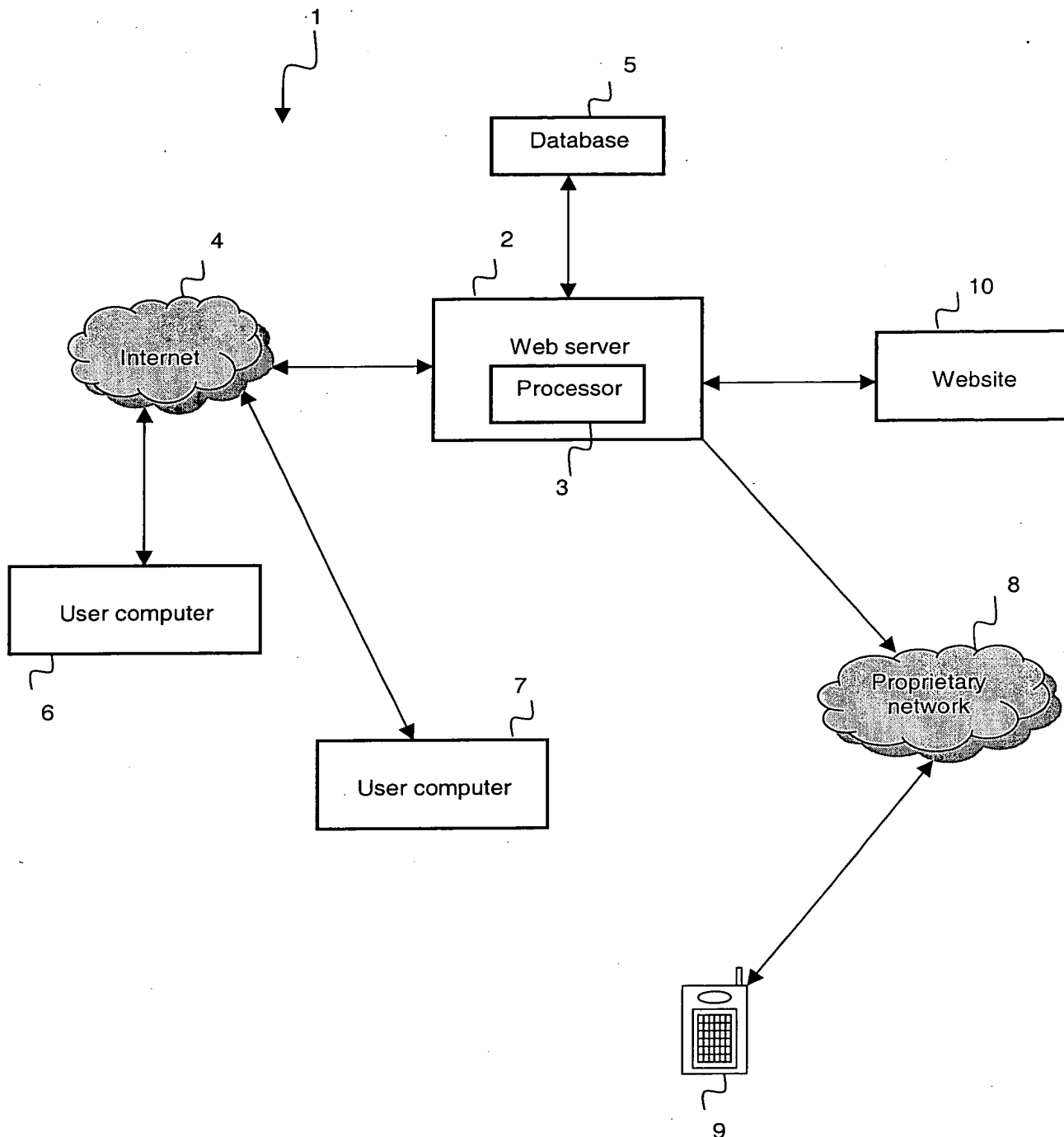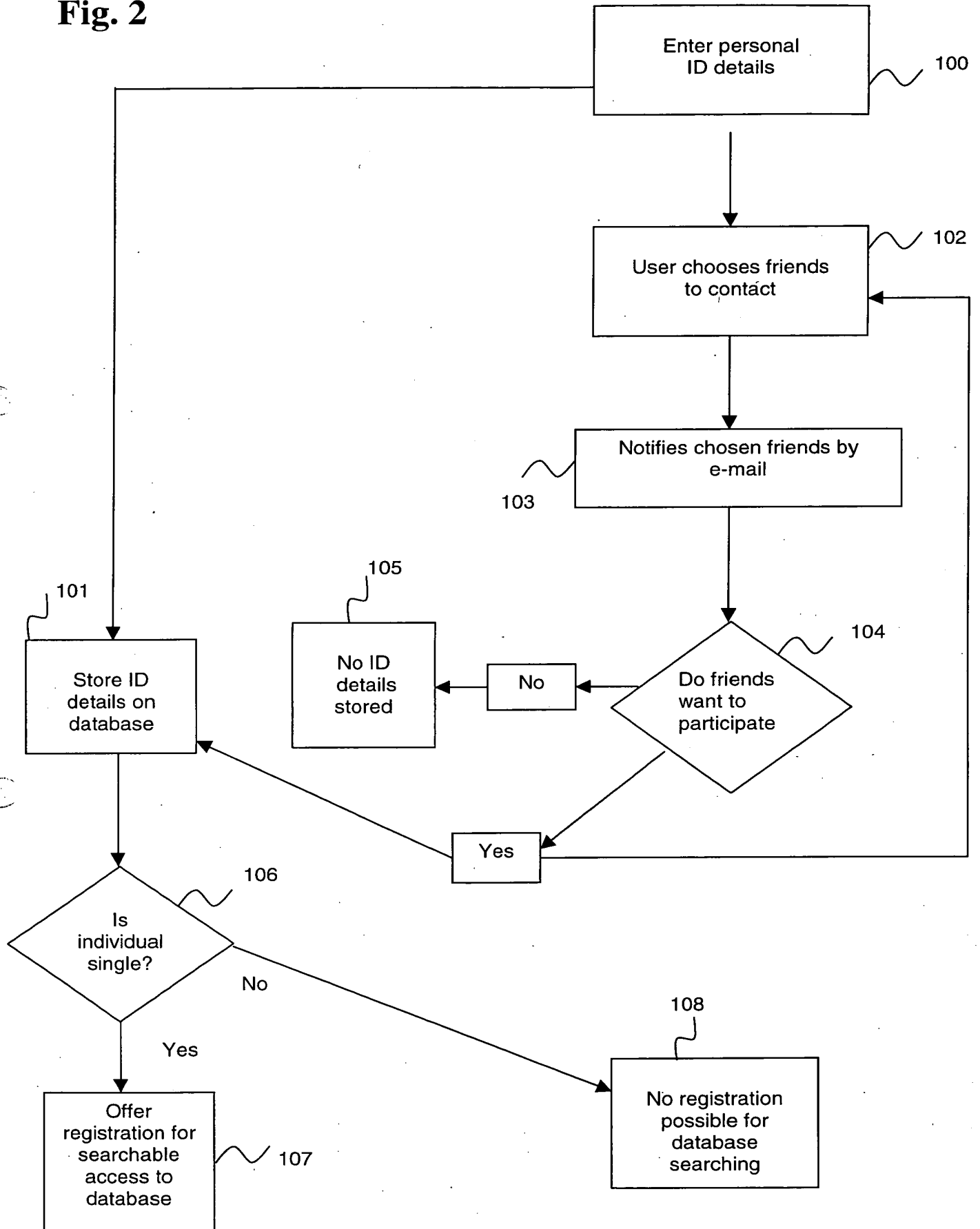Yes → Offer registration for searchable access to database — 107

Help Your Friends

Your Details

First Name	Your email address

To help your friends all you have to do is enter in the email addresses of your friends below and the following email will be sent to them. You can modify the letter with the drop down menus to make it more appropriate for you and your friends.

16

Subject	*Your Name* - requesting a little help from my friends for my friends.

Hi *Friend's Name*,

This is [a cool ▼] way that you can help your single friends meet other single people in our network of friends. All you have to do click on the link below and follow the easy instructions. You can help your friends (and me) without having to register yourself and no information is ever made available to the general public. The whole process only takes about five minutes.

Click to help your friends

Thanks for helping out.

[Regards ▼]

15

Sign the letter

List of people to send it to

First Name	Email address

17.   14

Send Emails

Notes

- We will only send this one email to your friends. If they do not click on the link and choose to participate we will delete their email address from our records.
- The reason we send this email via a form on a webpage is so that if another common friend has already given us their name we do not need to send them another email hence it reduces email clutter.

Fig. 3

Start Using the Service

Using this service is a simple four step process

1. Register for the service
2. Add additional information about yourself to your profile (optional)
3. Invite your friends to join your network (optional)
4. Search your network of friends

Registering for this service

To use FriendlyConnection.net all you have to do is register by filling out the simple form below (if you have been referred by an email from a friend then most of this form should already be filled out for you). When you have done this you will able to search your network of friends for single people and single people in your network will be able to find you.

Click here for an example of the information you will be able to search through when you register
If you want to use this service to find single people in your network of friends then simply follow this easy registration process

Who would you like to be able to see the information you provide here? _____ Friends of Friends Friends of friends of friends	None of the information you enter will be made available to people other than those that you specify here. It will never made available to the general public

I am a	Woman Man	interested in meeting a	_____ Woman Man

19

20

My Firstname is:	
My Lastname is:	[Optional]
My preferred email address is:	
please confirm your email address:	
	Register

18

Fig. 4